human wastes are treated with the help of bacteria, which eat away the human wastes. Bacteria are required to be replaced at regular intervals.

(c) The cost of one bio-digester is Rs. 45,000/-.

Shortage of Civilian Personnel in Navy

770. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Navy has staved off a shortfall in personnel for two major projects with the Government approving the recruitment of nearly 2,000 personnel; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction to increase the strength of civilian personnel in the Navy?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government sanctions for the creation of 2901 posts for the Naval Base Project at Karwar and 1220 posts for the Naval Academy at Ezhimala have been issued during the last two years.

(b) The above sanctions have increased the strength of the civilian personnel of the Navy by 2634 posts. Recruitment action to fill up these posts through direct recruitment and temporary transfers has already been initiated.

Ban on sale of Camouflage Clothes of the Army

771. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to seek ban on sale of camouflage clothes of the Army by private shops in the interest of national security;

(b) if so, the status of the proposal;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government proposes to effect changes in the dresses of our Jawans from strategic point of view; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to seek ban on the sale of camouflage clothes of the Army, by private shops.

(c) and (d) The process of improvement of dresses of our jawans purely from the point of view of comfort and durability, is an ongoing one. There is,

however, no proposal to effect changes in the dresses of our Jawans from a strategic point of view.

Detection of North Korean ship carrying arms and ammunition

772. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a North Korean ship carrying arms and ammunition was recently noticed by the Naval Intelligence while heading towards India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the ship had unloaded its arms on any Indian port and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rashtriya Rifles Battalions

773. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be
pleased to state:

(a) the number of Rashtriya Rifles Battalions raised by the Indian Army during the last two years to meet the special counter insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) what was the original number of battalions approved by Government?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Six battalions of Rashtriya Rifles (RR) were raised by the Indian Army in the last two years.

(b) The Government has issued sanction for raising of 57 RR battalions, so far.

Flying of US F-16s in joint exercise with India

774. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Air Force will fly its F-16 planes for the first time in India in a joint exercise;

(b) if so, the details of number of flights which participated in the exercise;

(c) what is the aim of the joint exercises;

(d) the expenditure incurred thereupon;